

2013 Annual Report



Fitchburg Fire Department

Deputy Chief Chad E. Grossen

Acting Fire Chief



2013 Annual Report

Chief's Letter

February 28, 2014

Citizens and Businesses of Fitchburg
Mayor Pfaff
City Council Members
Police and Fire Commission Members

2013 was a unique year for the City of Fitchburg Fire Department, yet through all the challenges and distractions the year presented, one thing remained constant - the dedication and commitment by the men and women of the City of Fitchburg Fire Department to ensuring we are well-trained and prepared to deliver the highest level of service to our citizens, visitors, businesses, and property owners.

My compliments and appreciation go to the men and women of the Fire Department for their professionalism. During the year a number of items were identified that questioned specific operations and management of the department. Throughout the challenges that occurred in 2013 the members kept an open and unbiased mind while we sorted through the real facts, and we have all taken advantage of the lessons learned to continue to make the Department better than it was before.

It is so easy to over react, jump to conclusions without all the facts, disregard facts that don't support pre-conceived conclusions, and genuinely make a bad situation worse. Throughout the course of 2013 the thing I am probably the most proud of was the professionalism of the members of the City of Fitchburg Fire Department. They resisted those easy temptations, addressed every situation with the professionalism and sincerity of people who genuinely care about trying to make things better, stayed focused on delivering quality service to the community, and dealt with those things that actual facts dictated needed to be addressed to make the Department and the service we deliver to our community better.

In 2013 the fire department was authorized to apply for a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Unfortunately we were not awarded any grant funding to assist in filling three career firefighter/inspector positions that were recommended by the 2006 Fire Department staffing survey and analysis.

2013 Chief's Letter

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2013 saw 1,542 total requests for service, a 2.10% year-over-year decrease from 2012, yet had higher responses were seen in our three busiest categories. As concerning is the continued extended response time trend. We ended 2013 with an average response time of 5 minutes – 15 seconds, slightly higher than 2012, but still over nationally acceptable standards. We now need to look all the way back to 2008 as the last year Fitchburg met national standards, which underscores the need to look seriously at the need to reposition our current fire stations; especially as growth continues to move away from the core of the city's current Urban Service Area.

One of the most notable activities that began in 2013 was an external organizational and leadership survey and analysis of the fire department. Ethical Leaders In Action (ELA) of Minneapolis, MN began their session with the department on February 4. The members are positive and committed in working with ELA to complete the analysis to identify any shortfalls within the organization. The final report from the analysis will identify ways the fire department can improve for our internal members and externally for the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Fitchburg. ELA is also conducting a number of trainings for all members that focus on identifying and improving leadership and ethical values.

The balance of this report reflects the efforts of our operating teams under the overall direction of Deputy Chief – Recruitment and Safety Richard Roth and Division Chief – Support Services Gary Heberling. The City is fortunate to have these dedicated and tireless leaders:

- Prevention, Inspection, Investigation and Public Education – Division Chief (Vacant)
- Training – Division Chief (Vacant)
- Support Services - Division Chief Gary Heberling
- Honor Guard – Firefighter Brian Hageman

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Business Manager Meredith Shelton, Firefighter/Inspector Adam Dorn, and Lieutenant Rob Kunze for all their efforts in pulling the massive amount of information together for this report.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our Department members, the Officer team, past members of the Department, the Mayor, the Council, the Commission, City Administration, City staff, Fitch-Rona EMS, and our neighboring community partners, **ALL** of whom continue to play a significant role in helping the Fitchburg Fire Department deliver an outstanding level of service to our citizens, visitors, businesses, and property owners.

Respectfully,



Chad E. Grossen

DEPARTMENT MISSION

Mission Statement

The City of Fitchburg Fire Department will maintain a high state of readiness, cultivating community partnerships, and creating innovative community programs.

Our emphasis will revolve around quality, innovation, trust, integrity, and customer service to internal and external customers.

We will deliver our services in a competent, courteous, respectful, and ethical manner reaching out to those in need within the community and beyond.

We will accomplish our mission through prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical care, and the continual professional development of our emergency response personnel.

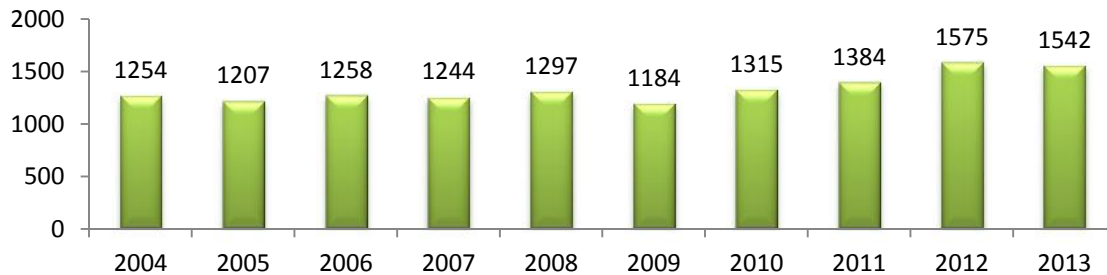
DEPARTMENT GOALS

- *To accomplish our mission and serve the citizens, businesses, and visitors to Fitchburg by:*
 - Arriving quickly,
 - Being well trained, and
 - Having the equipment necessary to safely and effectively deal with their situation
- *To leave things better than we found them....*
 - Every call
 - Every shift
 - Every day
 - During our career
 - During our lifetime
- *To create an environment that people want to be part of*

OPERATIONS

Chad Grossen, Deputy Chief - Operations

Requests for Service - 2004 to 2013



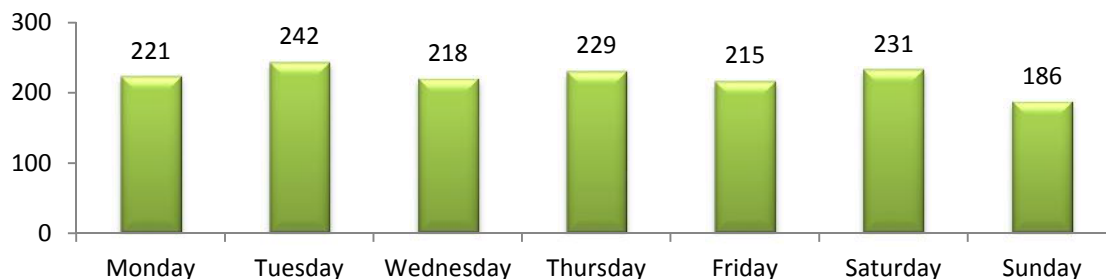
The City of Fitchburg Fire Department responded to 1,542 requests for service during 2013. This was a 2.10% decrease from 2012, and reflects higher numbers in our three busiest categories and decreases in other categories. The 1,542 calls in 2013 included:

- 13 Structure Fire (*up from 7 in 2012*)
- 739 EMS Assists (including Priority Medical Dispatch calls) (*down from 748 in 2012*)
- 623 Still Alarms (alarm soundings, car fires, odor investigations) (*up from 622 in 2012*)
- 58 Automatic aid to Oregon, Verona and the Town of Madison (*down from 75 in 2012*)
- 18 Mutual Aid Given (*up from 11 in 2012*)
- 82 Motor Vehicle Crash (*down from 85 in 2012*)
- 16 Public Service (lock-outs, water removal, etc.) (*up from 11 in 2012*)
- 0 Hazardous Materials Incident (*same as 2012*)
- 5 Assist Law Enforcement (*down from 14 in 2012*)

Average Response Time / 15 Personnel on scene in 9 minutes – 2009 to 2013

	<u>Avg Resp Times – All-Calls</u>	<u>15 Personnel on scene in 9 mins / Avg Time</u>
2009	5 minutes – 21 seconds	0 for 11 / 14 minutes
2010	5 minutes – 6 seconds	0 for 9 / 12 minutes
2011	5 minutes – 14 seconds	0 for 8 / 12 minutes
2012	5 minutes – 5 seconds	0 for 7 / 12 minutes
2013	5 minutes – 15 seconds	0 for 9 / 12 minutes

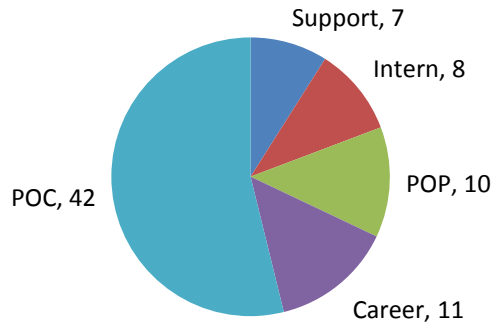
Requests for Service by Day of Week - 2013



PERSONNEL

Richard Roth, Deputy Chief – Training, Safety and Recruitment

Fire Department Staffing – 2013



The City of Fitchburg Fire Department uses a “combination” staffing model, meaning we use a combination of career (full-time), paid-on-call (POC), paid-on-premises (POP), and student intern employees.

The combination model allows Fitchburg to provide a high level of emergency service in a very economical way. Fitchburg’s Fire Department budget is approximately \$2 million dollars. Similar sized cities that have not been able to maintain a viable combination staffing model require average budgets between \$4.5 and \$5.5 million to provide similar levels of response time and depth.

To maintain a viable number of paid-on-call and paid-on-premises firefighters available to respond to larger emergency calls, we conduct 2 recruitments each year to systematically replace members who leave for a variety of personal or job-related reasons.



Membership Length of Service – 2013

(Continuous years of service)

Over 30 Years

Robert H. Gessler, Accountability Team

20-29 Years

Reginald H. Moody, Accountability Team
Chad E. Grossen, Deputy Chief-Operations – Career
Jason S. Ladwig, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Andrew J Brandl, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Wayne R. Aeschbach, Firefighter/Inspector - Career

15-19 Years

David L. Berman, Lieutenant/Inspector – Career Dale D. Struckmeyer, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Stephen P. Block, Firefighter - POC

10-14 Years

Randall P. Pickering, Fire Chief – POC
Richard T. Roth, Deputy Chief – POC
Gary S. Heberling, Division Chief – POC
Jeff D. Berman, Lieutenant – POP
Robert C. Kunze, Lieutenant/Inspector – Career
Michael L. Hartwig, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Jeremy G. Brueggemann, Firefighter/Inspector - Career

Charles J. Henry, Firefighter – POC
Allison M. Langer, Firefighter – POC
Brian J. Hageman, Firefighter – POC
Scott G. Westphal, Firefighter – POP
Brian J. Hageman, Firefighter – POC
Michael Carbonara, Firefighter – POP
Ronald Martin, Firefighter - POC

5-9 Years

Steven G. Wunsch, Lieutenant – POC
Jeff J. Baumgartner, Lieutenant – POP
Jon Engelhart, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Adam Dorn, Firefighter/Inspector – Career
Dwight A. Shelton, Firefighter – POC
Hunter J. Hill, Firefighter – POC
Paul Bowers, Firefighter – POP
Derrick Frisch, Firefighter – POC
Greg McCormick, Support Staff

Stephen Checki, Firefighter – POP
Doug Clemens, Firefighter – POP
Matthew Sutter, Firefighter – POC
Kevin Wernet, Firefighter – POP
Jason Gonzalez, Firefighter – POC
Todd Johnson, Firefighter – POC
Wesley Coppersmith, Support Staff
David Zuehlke, Firefighter – POC
Meredith Shelton, Business Manager

Membership Length of Service – 2013 (Cont.)

(Continuous years of service)

Fewer Than 5 Years

Brian J. Gutweiler, Firefighter – POC
Kevin D. Kelm, Firefighter – POC
Bradley D. Way, Firefighter – POP
Tony R. Gallagher, Firefighter – POC
Ryan L. Griessmeyer, Firefighter – POC
James G. Roberts, Investigator
Jameson Holum, Firefighter – POP
Dana Collins, Firefighter – POC
John Poehling, Photographer
Troy A. Heimsoth, Firefighter – POC
Jonathon M. Roach, Firefighter – POC
Adam Wunsch, Firefighter – POC
Ahmed O. Monawer, Firefighter – POC
Bradley J. Hageman, Firefighter – POC
Vaughn G. Brockel, Firefighter – Intern

Adam Thimmig, Firefighter – POC
Matthew Bell, Firefighter – POC
Joseph Callan, Firefighter – POC
Logan Keleny, Firefighter – POC
David Kruser, Firefighter – POC
Craig Meier, Firefighter – POC
Ryan Kundert, Firefighter – Intern
Mitchell Severson, Firefighter – Intern
Casey Henthorne, Firefighter – Intern
Kurt Kleven, Firefighter – Intern
Kyle Dahmen, Firefighter - Intern
Kory Alt, Firefighter - Intern
Davin Blazek, Firefighter - Intern
Ross Moll, Firefighter - Intern

PREVENTION, INSPECTION, INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION

Public Fire Safety Education Activities - 2013

The City of Fitchburg Fire Department promotes fire and life safety education for all Fitchburg residents and its visitors through fire education programs and events throughout the year. These programs and events include:

The Public Education Division and the on-duty crews coordinate with area schools, daycare facilities and elderly housing complexes to deliver fire safety presentations throughout the year. These presentations consist of basic fire and life safety tips, home escape planning and drills, and firefighter responsibilities.



Firefighter Henthorne reads to the children at Woods Hollow Day Care Center.

One great success, which was started in 2009, and we still continue; is reading books to local day care children on a monthly basis. We continue to read to the "Mouse A" class at the Woods Hollow Day Care Center located on the Promega Campus, continuing to build a strong relationship with children between the ages of 3-6 in order to give them the best information possible about fire safety, firefighters, and the jobs that they do. The teachers also reinforce the fire safety messages that we have presented.



Firefighters Sutter (l) and Carbonara (r) explain some of the equipment stored on the engine.

The Fire Department hosts its annual open house which is the largest single event promoting fire and safety education to the community, and consists of many different fire and life safety activities. With the help of area businesses, community organizations, and other city departments, the open house attracts between 2500 and 3500 visitors annually from all over the Dane County and southern Wisconsin area.

The Fire Department offers portable fire extinguisher training to area businesses throughout the year. We teach employees how to correctly identify, select, and use the right extinguisher on different types of fires. Depending on the needs of each business, training is provided to all employees during their normal shifts (including overnight shifts) to minimize financial impact on the business. This year we expanded the program and offered fire extinguisher training as part of the annual fire prevention week open house.



Fire Investigator Roberts oversees the fire extinguisher training that was offered at the open house.



Firefighter Monawer shows children his firefighting personal protective equipment.

The fire station is always ready to welcome visitors. We give tours of the station to community organizations, school and pre-school classes, and the general public throughout the year. These tours usually consist of showing visitors the department apparatus and talking to our guests about fire safety and the workday of a firefighter.



The On-Duty crews with the staff and students of the Swim West Program after a fire house tour.

We also offer free home fire safety inspections to Fitchburg residents throughout the year. We work with the homeowner to identify and locate fire hazards within their home, and make suggestions on how to eliminate these hazards.

The Department also facilitates a Juvenile Fire Setters Program designed to teach at-risk children the dangers of setting fires and its consequences. This program educates youths on how a fire starts, the basic principles of fire, and the significant dangers related to fire. The Fire Department then follows-up with those individuals that have successfully completed the program.

The Department also makes numerous public appearances throughout the year at different City sponsored, neighborhood, and private events. This is the perfect opportunity for the Fire Department to interact with large numbers of people in different aspects of the community.



The on-duty crews were on hand at Fitchburg Days to promote and educate those in attendance on fire safety

The Department also reaches out to assist those who need help and by doing so we are more than just a fire department, we are part of the fabric of the community. One such way of being part of this fabric is by delivering and applying water during this last year's drought to the Madison Area Food Pantry's garden, located Whalen Road near Mutchler Rd. During the open house festivities, we conduct a non-perishable food drive, which benefits the Community Action Coalition.



The on-duty crews participated in The Little Gym's "Super Heroes Week" for the fifth year in a row.

2013 Public Fire Safety Education Statistics

Program / Event	Total Number of Events	Personnel	Staffing Hours	Educational Hours	Public Contacts	
					Adult	Children
Presentations	18	59	46.75	14.5	150	670
Extinguisher Training	2	3	9	5.5	61	0
Fire House Tours	13	47	55.75	13	89	187
Public Appearances	15	82	293.5	52	226+	541+
Fire Drills	1	8	4	0.5	75	0
Other	9	24	60.5	24.5	273	31
Open House	1	41	281	5	1500*	2000*
Total Contacts	59	264	750.5	115	874	1429
					2303	
Total 2012	81	262	516.25	192.75	1214	1971
					3185	
Total 2011	75	296	710.75	107.25	914	728
					1642	
Total 2010	62	295	568.5	86.25	816	1200
					2016	
Total 2009	50	167	469.75	67.75	1905	2978
					4883	
Total 2008	37	201	1938	65	5260	N/A
Total 2007	32	N/A	563.25	78.75	4847	N/A

+ Number of known Contacts

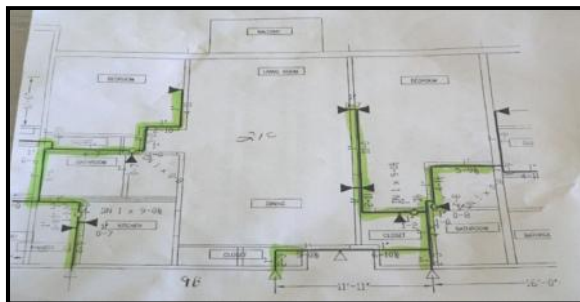
*Approximate numbers (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL)

Public Education is one of the most vital roles the Department plays in our community. In 2013, the total number of public contacts decreased by approximately 27% compared to 2012. The primary reason for the decrease of events is due to the decline of requests for presentations at schools and businesses along with CPR training.

2013 Plan Review and Inspection Statistics

The Fire Prevention, Inspection, Investigation and Public Education Division is responsible for a range of activities aimed at helping to prevent fires from occurring, or minimizing the impact if a fire does occur. In addition the Division is responsible for investigating all fires that occur for the purposes of determining an origin and cause. Following is information on each of our major areas of responsibility. Plan reviews saw a 63.6% increase compared to 2012.

<u>DIVISION ACTIVITY</u>	<u>OCCURRENCES</u>
Sprinkler Plan Review	23
Fire Alarm Plan Review	23
Occupancy Inspections	16
Other (Technical reviews/tests)	8
Hydrostatic Tests (Above & Below Ground)	30
Sprinkler Systems Accepted	21
Fire Systems Accepted	14
Routine Fire Inspections	3,000
Follow-Up Inspections	15



Fire Investigation Activities – 2013

Members of the City of Fitchburg joint Police and Fire Investigation Team were heavily involved in the investigation and cause determination of several fires that occurred in Fitchburg during 2013. Fire Departments are responsible under State Statute to determine if a fire was accidental, intentional, or undetermined. If the fire is considered accidental, it means that it was not an intentional act by a person and or it was a possible product malfunction, failure, or act of nature. In some cases the Department also asks State and Federal resources for assistance during an investigation. Once the Department completes its investigation, the insurance companies holding interest often choose to investigate further to more definitively narrow down the reason for a product malfunction as an example.

If the investigation team determines that the fire has been intentionally set, it becomes a crime scene and authority for the investigation shifts from the Fire Department to the Police Department. The Fire Department members of the team continue to assist the Police Department as the investigation continues. If the investigation leads to court proceedings, the Fire Department is responsible for providing expert testimony related to the investigation

An “undetermined” cause simply means that there is no definitive evidence or facts to unequivocally determine if the fire was accidental or intentional. In many cases our investigation identifies a list of possible causes, but not one that can be scientifically supported through fire behaviors, equipment behaviors, substance reactions, intentional human interaction, or acts of nature. Once the City’s official investigation has concluded the property is turned over to the insurance companies holding interest, and in many cases the Insurance Company will choose to do further investigation or testing.

FIRE INVESTIGATION 2013 SECTION TOTALS

NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS: 98



08-10-2013 Structure Fire
Jacquelen Dr.
Structure Fire



08-10-2013 Structure Fire
Jacquelen Dr.
Structure Fire



08-17-2013 Structure Fire
Concord Drive
Structure Fire



05-28-2013 Compressor Fire
Placon Corporation
Structure Fire



08-25-2013 Pressure washer Fire



11-18-2013 Crescent Road Car Fire

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Gary Heberling, Division Chief – Support Services

The Support Services Division of the City of Fitchburg Fire Department is responsible for new vehicle design and procurement, the purchasing of new fire equipment and protective clothing, the maintenance and repair of all existing department vehicles and equipment, and the maintenance of the City's fire stations and their grounds.

2013 Vehicle Purchases

One vehicle was purchased in 2013: a ¾-ton, 4-wheel drive, Chevy Suburban to replace the 2001 ½-ton Chevy Suburban (Car 21). The heavier chassis allows the vehicle to be used to tow our ATV and investigation trailers when the pickup truck is not available, as well as providing improved durability of the drivetrain and suspension components. This mirrors the past two staff vehicle upgrades (Cars 23 and 25) including the emergency lighting package for consistent operation and appearance. The on-board video system was deleted to keep the project within budget. The total amount allotted for the project was \$62,000. This included \$1,500.00 anticipated from the sale of the old Suburban.

The next vehicle scheduled to be replaced is Car 24 (2003 Suburban) in 2015. Ladder 1 (1993 Seagrave aerial platform) has reached its planned primary service life cycle and was scheduled for replacement in 2013. While the vehicle continues to pass its annual certification tests (with some repairs), extended utilization of a vehicle beyond its primary life cycle historically accompanies increases in maintenance and operational costs, and out of service periods. The project was rescheduled by the City to 2016 as part of the 2012 Capital Improvement Plan review.

Vehicle Maintenance

Vehicle maintenance and repair historically has been a significant portion of our Department budget. The Department currently maintains 12 fire apparatus, 6 passenger vehicles, 4 trailers, and an ATV. The Support Services Division strives to maintain all of the department's vehicles per the manufacturer's specifications and in compliance with DOT and NFPA standards to ensure their readiness in the event of an emergency, and to get the best performance and longevity out of them. The annual cost of keeping our fleet of vehicles in service typically exceeds the budget funds allotted. For the past several years we have utilized a computerized reporting system that makes it easier for firefighters and drivers to input repair and maintenance requests. This information is automatically directed to the person(s) responsible for maintaining that particular vehicle to allow the issue to be corrected in the most expedient manner possible.

All department drivers are required to participate in a minimum of 3 hours of driver training each month to maintain their driver authorization for the types of vehicles the Department authorizes them to operate. This helps to reduce the chances of vehicle crashes and damage due to unfamiliarity with vehicle handling characteristics and their proper operation. Designated department members attempt to perform as many repair and maintenance items in-house as possible to keep labor costs down.

The Department's high call volume as well as vehicle use for required building inspections adds miles to the vehicles and increases routine maintenance costs while reducing their service life in terms of years. As the vehicles have become more complex, more of what we had been able to

repair in-house must now be done by certified repair specialists at greater expense. Our extreme weather conditions, especially winter, and the use of road salt make roads rougher and on-board mechanicals more difficult to maintain. Our vehicle designs now incorporate stainless steel bodies whenever possible to minimize the potential of corrosion.

The Department anticipates Ladder 93 will require a new commutator in the near future. This device is located under the center point of the aerial ladder's turntable. As the turntable moves, electrical contacts inside of the device glide along circular rings (called lands) to allow for electrical control and communications connections to be maintained between the ladder's platform components and the vehicle while the ladder is rotated. Some of these lands have failed requiring the circuits that they support to be moved to another land. The increased load on the remaining lands is now shortening their life. The cost of replacing the commutator was estimated to be between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in 2011.

In 2012, the on-board hydraulic rescue tool (HRT) system on the Heavy Rescue Squad (Squad 01) was found to be operating at a reduced capacity and required a complete rebuild. The problem appeared to be related to an unidentified contaminant being introduced into the hydraulic fluid reservoir. This contaminant caused the hydraulic fluid to separate and clog system filters resulting in reduced operating pressures and flows. Additionally, all three system pumps were damaged due to incompatibility with the foreign fluid.

The model of hydraulic pump originally used is no longer made by the manufacturer. It was determined that the pumps could be "rebuilt" quicker, and at less cost, than purchasing new, alternative model, pumps. The pumps have been sent for rebuild one at a time to allow the Squad to remain in service, even if at a reduced capacity. The last pump rebuild was completed in early 2013 and the system is now operating at its designed pressure and flow specifications.

All six tires on both Engines 1 and 2 were replaced in 2013. The two front steer tires and four of the eight rear tires on Ladder 1 were replaced as well. The Ladder also required a front-end alignment. The rear tires on Tenders 1 and 2 were rotated to even out wear and extend their life. Total cost for tires was \$13,942. Tires on the two reserve engines will require replacement in 2014. The remaining 4 rear tires on Ladder 1 may require replacement as well. Our Brush 1 and Utility 1 vehicles will require full tire replacements in 2014 as, even though their tread depth is acceptable, the age of the tires exceeds the NFPA standard of 7 years.

Recurring scheduled maintenance for our vehicles include annual fire pump testing and certification on our four engines (pumpers), annual UL aerial platform testing and certification for the ladder truck, and annual DOT inspections and certifications for all large trucks.

Equipment

The Fire Department Equipment Budget is used to maintain existing equipment, procure additional equipment to address identified service deficiencies, as well as replace worn out, broken, expired, or lost equipment and protective clothing. Beyond firefighting and rescue "equipment," all types of "equipment" used by the Fire Department including things like the lease costs for the department printer/copier(s) are applied to this account. Most equipment purchases are less than \$1000. Even with careful monitoring, the account is usually depleted prior to year-end.

Our hydraulic extrication equipment carried on Heavy Rescue Squad and Aerial Ladder is reaching the end of its useful life. As more new cars are put on the roads, our existing extrication equipment becomes less and less effective. The auto industry's increasing use of exotic metals such as

Advanced High Strength Steels (AHSS) that contain the likes of Boron and Martensite means that our tools are no longer capable of cutting through areas reinforced by these compounds. Newer tools that utilize higher cutting force and stronger blades that can “fracture” these metals are required. We have integrated the cost estimate of updating the equipment carried on the ladder into the now 2016 CIP Aerial Ladder Project. The Heavy Rescue Squad (Squad 01) is our primary extrication response vehicle and is not scheduled for replacement until 2020. We are evaluating how to update its extrication capabilities and the associated costs such that we can get a project scheduled in the CIP schedule.

Protective clothing encompasses the structural firefighting ensemble that a firefighter is required to wear in order to enter or work near, a hazardous environment. This equipment includes a bunker coat and pants, helmet, hood, SCBA face piece and voice amplifier, gloves, and boots. All components must meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1971 standard for structural firefighting clothing. The cost of this ensemble is approximately \$3200. The NFPA specifies that the bunker coat and pants have a lifespan of 10 years from the date of manufacture. All fire helmets have a similar limited lifespan.

Each firefighter is assigned a personal protective clothing ensemble. New firefighters are initially given used, but unexpired, bunker coats and pants whenever possible. Proper fit is very important and, at times, new gear must be ordered if used gear from our inventory is not available in the proper size. In that case, the firefighter is measured for a custom-fit set of gear. As coats and pants reach their expiration date, the clothing is taken out-of-service and the firefighter is custom-fit for that article of clothing. The Fire Department budgets for ten sets of gear annually to cover expired gear and replacement of non-repairable clothing.

Some of our Paid-on-Call and Paid-on-Premises firefighters (collectively, POX) and all career firefighters, have two sets of coats and pants. All POX firefighters who work shift and, maintain a certain benchmark number of shifts/hours worked per month, are assigned a second set of gear. Career firefighters also have a second set per their contract. This is because, if their gear becomes contaminated or damaged while they are working, they have a spare set to use which allows them to continue working their shift.

Examples of recurring required equipment maintenance items include annual UL testing and certification of all ground ladders carried on our vehicles, annual preventive maintenance and testing of all Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), annual SCBA face piece tester calibration, annual inspection and testing of all hydraulic extrication equipment, annual fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance (including those carried on our vehicles), annual maintenance of our breathing air compressors, and quarterly air sample testing of our breathing air supply systems. All SCBA air cylinders and breathing air storage cylinders require hydrostatic testing every five years.

Buildings and Grounds

The two Fire Station buildings and grounds are maintained by the on-duty fire and EMS crews throughout the year. The Fire Department purchases and maintains its own lawn care and landscaping equipment, mows and trims the grass areas around the buildings, and prunes the bushes. The Public Works/Parks Department plows the vehicle ramps and parking lots in the winter while the Fire Department and Fitch-Rona EMS personnel clear the sidewalks, entrance, and exit areas.

Despite various roof repairs over the past few years, new leaks developed during 2013 over the apparatus bay of Station #2. The same conditions that caused the leaks over the living quarters during the cold-weather months, as well as heavy rains during the warm-weather months, cause serious leaks in this area. Water runs down the east wall of the apparatus bay and soaks equipment and protective clothing stored in lockers on the wall. Additionally, the water flows along roof trusses that span the bay and drips down on random locations that may damage or cause an item to be taken out of service. The apparatus bay roof at Fire Station #1 also requires repair several times a year to address new and recurring leaks. John Crook of the Building Inspection Department is aware of the water issues and has it on his project list to have the roof issues dealt with in the spring of 2014.

The overhead paging system at Fire Station #2 is failing and needs to be replaced. The electronics are almost 20 years old and replacement/repair parts are no longer available. Integration with the replacement used phone system obtained from the City a few years ago did not work out as well as hoped. This system is supposed to broadcast 9-1-1 alert pages for Fitch-Rona EMS and the Fire Department throughout the entire building. Additionally, it is used to announce phone calls to others in the building.

The front aprons for both Fire Stations continue to be in need of repair. Wisconsin winters and simple age have taken their toll on the surfaces leaving numerous cracks and holes which continue to get worse. Serious consideration should be given to repairing or replacing these ramps as soon as the weather permits.

At nearly 30 years old, the emergency generator at Station #1 is well beyond its usable life expectancy. Because of its age, many parts are no longer available requiring those parts to be custom made.

Recurring scheduled maintenance for the buildings and grounds include fire sprinkler system testing and maintenance, emergency electrical generator testing and maintenance, and fertilization and weed control programs for the lawn areas. In 2012, all of these programs were consolidated into contracts that the City has established for its other buildings to save on costs and place oversight responsibility with a single entity.

Miscellaneous

In support of the City's programs to be more energy efficient and reduce our overall carbon footprint, we continue to remind our vehicle operators to abide by the City's "anti-idle" policy whenever possible. Additionally, we have switched to more energy efficient lighting and heating/cooling equipment as replacements are required.

To keep up on the latest trends, training and equipment, the Fire Department annually budgets to send some of its members to attend seminars and trade shows. The Support Services Division specifically benefits from attending the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) held in Indianapolis in April each year. This week-long conference not only offers an array of training and informational sessions for attendees, it is the largest fire-related vendor show in the country. All major manufacturers and distributors in the fire industry exhibit at the 3-day trade-show portion. It affords us the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with these companies and see the actual products they offer. It also provides us the opportunity to compare like products in a single forum.

Our failing 4-gas monitors are an example of the benefit of the show. We were able to try out and compare all of the competing manufacturer's gas monitors at the show and make the decision on

which model would best suit our needs. Local vendors typically do not have the expertise to answer some of the questions we might pose and may have only literature, rather than actual equipment, to demonstrate.

The show also allows us to address any issues we may be having with existing equipment. Specifically, in the winter of 2012-2013, we noticed a salt film collecting on the inside of our roll-up compartment doors on our 2011 Pierce fire engines. The film would dry and flake off inside the compartments. I brought this concern to the door manufacturer at the show and learned that they had found that this problem was related to the increased use of liquid deicers on roadways. This led them to re-design the doors to correct the problem. They offered to replace all 12 of our doors for free. They covered everything (parts, labor, paint, graphics, and shipping) with a total value of over \$26,000. We probably would not have considered replacing them otherwise.

I also discussed a problem we were experiencing with the mirrors on our engines with the mirror manufacturer. They offered to replace them at no charge even though the warranty had expired. This resulted in over \$2,600 in savings.

TRAINING DIVISION

Richard Roth, Deputy Chief – Training, Safety and Recruitment

The Training Division of the City of Fitchburg Fire Department is responsible for establishing and maintaining a training and education program for all fire department personnel to prevent occupational accidents, deaths, injuries and illnesses. Section SPS 330.07(1), Wis. Admin. Code, requires that this training is provided at least monthly, is based on the fire department's suggested operating guidelines for emergency scene operations, and is supervised by qualified instructors.

A cumulative total of 7,785 hours of training was delivered in 2013. Training hours break down into the following categories:

Internally-delivered Training – (6,443.25 total hours)

- Full Department Training – 1535 hours
- Officer/Acting Officer Training – 764.5 hours
- Platoon Training – 1,823.5 hours
- Apparatus Driver/Operator Training – 1,054.5 hours
- Fill-in Company Training – 643.25 hours
- New Firefighter Minimum Skills Training – 622.5 hours

Externally-delivered Training – (1,341.75 total hours)

Internally-delivered training is provided on a monthly basis according to the following schedule:

Full Department Drill	1 st Tuesday of the month
Officer/Acting Officer Drill	2 nd Tuesday of the month
Platoon Drill	3 rd Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of the month
Apparatus Driver/Operator Drill	4 th Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of the month

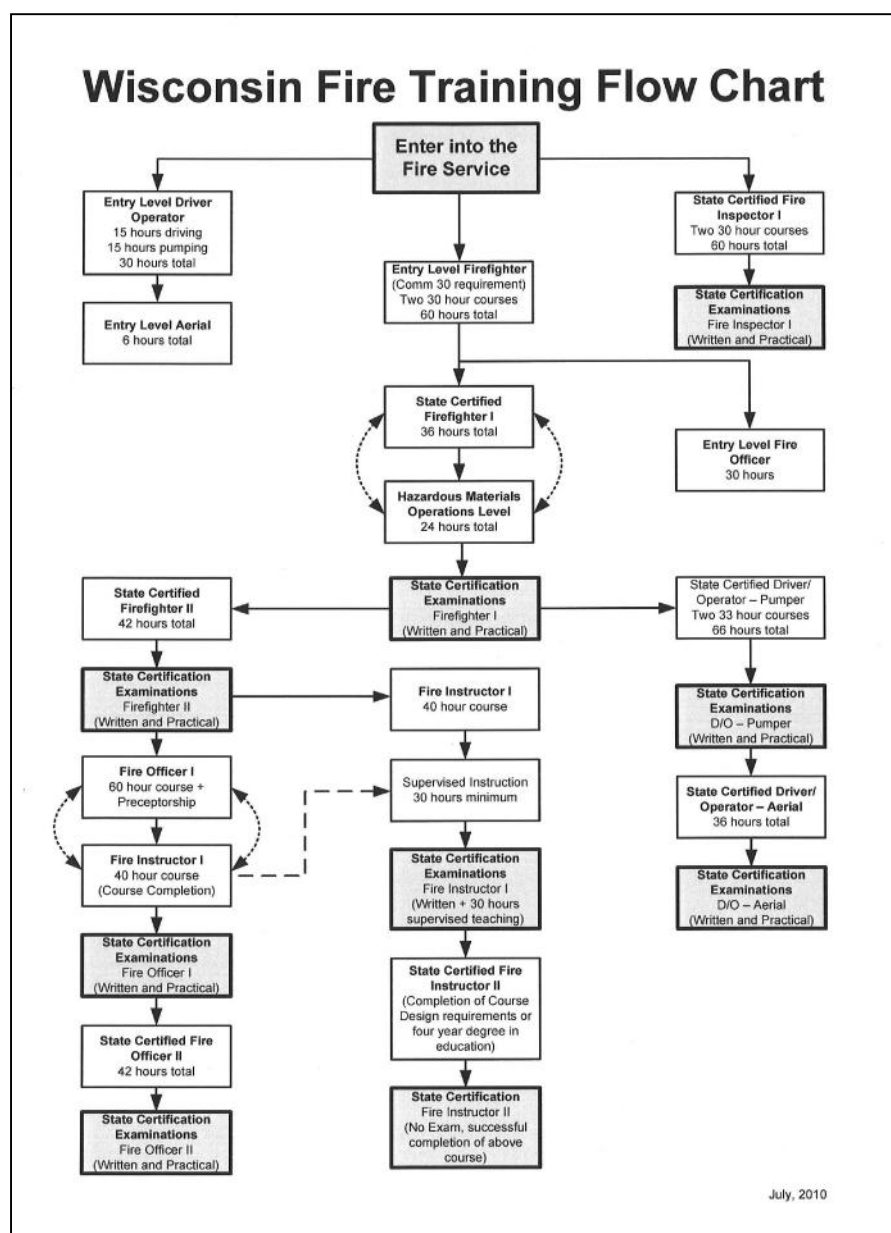
Daily fill-in company training takes place on days when the training listed above is not scheduled.

New firefighter minimum skills training is conducted as needed when new firefighters are appointed to the department.

The full department drill at the start of each month is an "All Hands" meeting where a training topic or theme is introduced (i.e. fire attack in new residential construction, automobile extrication, etc.) using a lecture or discussion-based method of instruction. This drill is also used for making general announcements to fire department personnel, introducing new suggested operating guidelines or special presentations by guest speakers.

During the second and third weeks of the month, training topics or themes that were presented at the full department drill are translated into specific problem-solving scenarios and "hands on" evolutions that promote the development of a firefighter's cognitive abilities and psychomotor skills.

Externally-delivered training is provided by third parties such as Madison College, University of Wisconsin-Extension, the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association or the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Most often, this training involves completing coursework required to obtain State of Wisconsin fire service certifications (see certification flowchart below); however it may also require attending specialized training opportunities that are made available through the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy, the Dane County Fire Training Officers Association or other fire service professional associations. Participation in externally delivered classes usually requires that fire department personnel travel beyond the boundaries of our municipality.



Not included in the total number of training hours described above is an additional 330 hours of entry-level firefighter training that was provided by Madison college and completed by six residents of Fitchburg prior to their appointment as paid-on-call members of the fire department. This training must be provided before a new firefighter is assigned to any task in an area where a hazardous atmosphere may be encountered.

The fire department sponsors city residents through this training to provide them with a realistic opportunity to experience the mental and physical aspects of a firefighter's job before they have to decide to make a commitment to join the department. Sponsorship through this training also removes many of the traditional barriers that have deterred qualified women and other minority candidates from pursuing fire service careers in the past.



HONOR GUARD



Established in September of 2011, the Fitchburg Fire Department's Honor Guard was formed to honor and remember firefighters. We wanted to provide a way to honor fallen firefighters, their families, and department members - past and present - and pay our last respects to our brothers and sisters in our firefighting family.

The Honor Guard is a branch of the Fitchburg Fire & Rescue Association, and is not an official element of the Department or the City; but represents the Department and our City at funerals, memorial services and any other function authorized/requested by the Chief of the Department. By participating as a well trained professional team at local, state, and national events, the Honor Guard projects a positive image of the Fitchburg Fire Departments and its members. We also respond to requests from both current and retired Fire Department members as well as assisting law enforcement and emergency medical services agencies.

The Honor Guard represents the Department and the City at various events throughout the state. During the short time that we have been officially organized, we have become very well known throughout the area and state as a premier group.

We currently have 14 members (5 Career, 7 Paid-On-Call and 2 Paid-On-Premises) of the Department that actively participate in Honor Guard events and fundraisers. The members of



the Honor Guard do not receive any compensation for any time when participating as part of the Honor Guard.

The Fitchburg Fire Department Honor Guard is funded by private donations. In order to purchase uniforms and equipment, the members of the Honor Guard have volunteered over 300 hours of their time from 2011 through the end of 2013 working concession stands at the Kohl Center and Camp Randall, where they receive a portion of the total proceeds. These funds have also assisted in sending members to a three-day honor guard clinic, hosted by the Milwaukee and North Shore Fire Department Honor Guards.



In May of each year, the Honor Guard sends some of its members to the Honor Guard Clinic hosted by the Milwaukee and North Shore Fire Department Honor Guards to train firefighters, EMS and law enforcement personnel how to establish and operate an honor guard. This three day course provides instruction on facing movements, marching, presentation and posting of the colors (flags), casket guard and pall-bearer duties, and how to fold and present

the American flag. The clinic also teaches participants how to assist and care for the family of a fallen officer, EMS personnel, or firefighter, as well as how to organize and execute retiree, active-duty, and line-of-duty death funerals. The core values instilled were: family, honor, respect, and compassion. The honor guard clinic proudly represented the Fire Department as part of over 30 participants from the country at the clinic.



The Honor Guard train on a regular basis, outside of the Department's required trainings. Many times training is conducted with other local honor guards from the Dane County area. We look forward to these nights, as we continue our networking along with sharing of knowledge and ideas and practices.

This past October, the Honor Guard was extremely honored to receive the request to provide funeral assistance and services to the family of former Fitchburg Firefighter Pete Jefferson. Firefighter Jefferson's funeral was considered a retiree death – because he was retired from the Department.

In October, the Honor Guard was given the honor to participate at the Wisconsin State Fallen Firefighter Memorial, located in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. At this event, the names of all firefighters who died in the line of duty, were read; and a bell was tolled after each name was read. One member was of the Honor Guard was also given the honor of presenting a flag to the surviving family of the fallen firefighter, Fire Chief Phillip Mortenson, of the Brooklyn Fire Department.



In addition to those noted previously, we were greatly honored to assist a number of local departments across Wisconsin who lost members this past year, by providing Honor Guard members in the planning, and execution of funeral arrangements; or by providing Honor Guard members to assist other Honor Guards.

The following is a list of funerals that Fitchburg Honor Guard members attended during 2013:

07-13-2013	Dorn Wedding, Fitchburg Fire Dept.	Wedding, Madison, WI
08-24-2013	Eric Luther, Beloit and Fitchburg Fire Depts.	Retiree Funeral
10-06-2013	Dane County Fire Chiefs' Fire Truck Parade	Parade, State Street, Madison
10-12-2013	Wisconsin Fallen Firefighter Memorial	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
11-01-2013	Pete Jefferson, Fitchburg Fire Department	Retiree Funeral
12-21-2013	Jesse Pickett, Grand Chute Fire Dept.	Active Duty Funeral



Fitchburg Fire Department Honor Guard Clinic Class Photo, July 2012

2013 SIGNIFICANT RESPONSES



01-27-13 MVC
One Vehicle Rollover on Hwy MM
Near Haight Farm Road



05-02-2013
Assist the Police/FBI
Fire House #2



05-05-2013 MVC
Seminole Hwy Near Duns Marsh
Motor Vehicle Crash and Fire



03-02-2013 MVC
Hwy 151 and McKee Rd.
Single Vehicle Rollover



07-13-2013 Fire
Whispering Pines Way
Explosion in Bathtub



07-15-2013 Fire
Red Arrow Trail
Kitchen Fire / Structure Fire



08-10-2013 Structure Fire
Jacquelyn Dr.
Structure Fire



08-17-2013 Structure Fire
Concord Drive
Structure Fire



06-07-2012 Hwy MM
Motor Vehicle Crash